

Appl. No. 10/720,557
Atty. Docket No. 9130M
Amdt. dated August 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 18, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations.
2. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.
3. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.
4. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 3, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
5. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said first region is disposed centrally to said sanitary napkin and said second region is disposed adjacent at least one of said side edges of said sanitary napkin.
6. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, further comprising a deep-embossed channel.
7. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 6, wherein said deep-embossed channel has a depth of at least 50% of said thickness of said sanitary napkin.
8. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a

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plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations;

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.

9. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.
10. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.
11. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 10, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
12. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said interior portion is completely bounded by said deep-embossed channel, and said first region is disposed substantially within said interior portion.
13. (Original) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations, said out-of-plane deformations being a plurality of soft, resilient, rib-like elements; and

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.

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14. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.
15. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said interior portion is completely bounded by said deep-embossed channel,
16. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
17. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein the individual rib-like elements have a length, measured along their longitudinal orientation, of between 1% and 50% of the length of the sanitary napkin.
18. (Original) A method for making a sanitary napkin, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a sanitary napkin manufacturing line, said manufacturing line comprising a series of unit operations;
 - b. providing a backsheet and absorbent core material;
 - c. providing a web material;
 - d. providing a pair of intermeshing rollers as one of said unit operations in said manufacturing line;
 - e. deforming said web material in said intermeshing rollers;
 - f. joining said deformed web material as a topsheet to said backsheet such that said absorbent core is disposed intermediate said topsheet and said backsheet.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said manufacturing line comprises an apparatus for making melt weakened locations on said web material, and said apparatus is provided as a unit operation before said deforming step..
20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said intermeshing rollers unit operation is a modular unit that can be changed out relatively quickly and easily.